ARMED FORCES DAY '75

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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American Forces . . .

VIGILANT VITAL VOLUNTEER

Armed Forces Day will be observed on May 17 this year. It provides an occasion for Americans to become better acquainted with their Armed Forces and to pay tribute to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who are serving their country.

This year's theme is: "American Forces—Vigilant, Vital, Volunteer." It depicts the readiness of today's military men and women in a voluntary environment.

Across the Nation in hundreds of cities, towns and rural communities, officials of Federal, State and local governments, and of various civic organizations will be paying special tribute to the patriotism and devotion of U.S. Servicemen and women now serving throughout the world.

Americans will be afforded the opportunity to visit military installations and personally view some of the most sophisticated weaponry and equipment ever devised to maintain peace.

How and when did Armed Forces Day come into being?

With the unification of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1947, efforts were made to consolidate the separate observances of Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Days which were held on April 6, October 27, November 10, and September 18, respectively.

However, it was not until August 31, 1949, that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced, with the approval of President Harry S. Truman, that "the third Saturday in May is to be designated 'Armed Forces Day'." Then, on February 28, 1950, President Truman issued a Presidential Proclamation proclaiming Saturday, May 20, 1950, as the first Armed Forces Day.

Since then, each succeeding President has reaffirmed by Presidential Proclamation the third Saturday of May as Armed Forces Day. Each President has called upon his fellow citizens to display the flag of the United States at their homes on Armed Forces Day and to avail themselves of the opportunity to become acquainted with their military by attending and participating in the local observances of the day.

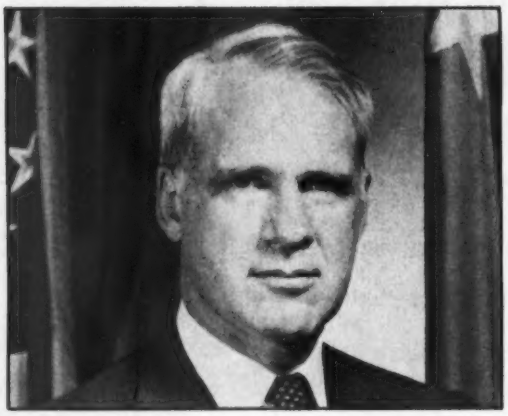
This 26th annual observance of Armed Forces Day is an appropriate time to call attention to the fact that three of the Military Services, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, this year will be proudly celebrating their 200th anniversaries on June 14, October 13, and November 10, respectively.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

It is most appropriate that Americans set aside a day each year to salute our Armed Forces. Our country was built by individuals who were ready to fight and die for their ideals. Ever since the earliest days of our independence, patriotism and dedication to the cause of peace have earned for those who have worn our nation's military uniforms a place of distinction and honor in our history.

On this day, I ask all citizens to join with me in paying tribute to the courageous men and women who stand watch over the security of our nation and whose vigilance helps to ensure the liberty we cherish.

Gerald R. Ford



JAMES R. SCHLESINGER
Secretary of Defense

May 17, 1975, marks the 26th annual observance of Armed Forces Day. On this special day, the Nation pauses to honor our men and women in uniform who shoulder the heavy responsibility of ensuring an enduring peace by maintaining military preparedness.

The nation is indebted to the members of our Armed Forces whose courage and convictions have made possible the peace and freedoms we all enjoy. On this eve of our 200th anniversary, I proudly salute every man and woman in uniform as they face the challenging future with the same steadfast commitment and confidence that have served us so well throughout our history.

I am proud to report that the men and women who wear the uniform of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard stand ready, wherever they serve, to defend this great Nation of ours and to protect the future for all Americans. Their dedication and service are the bedrock of our national security. They serve with honor, seeing the future as a challenge, which they face with courage and confidence. They are part of a defense network that enables many smaller nations to remain within the framework of a Free World.

Military strength on our part is a deterrent to war, not a cause. Only when that deterrence fails is a would-be aggressor encouraged to act overtly against a weaker nation. Armed Forces Day 1975 provides an opportunity to reflect on the important role American military power has played in the past in keeping the peace and in dampening the fires of an aggressor's zeal. That power is equally important today, as the course of events indicates all too well. We who have enjoyed for almost 200

years the blessed protection of a strong, dedicated military force can do no less than to stand four-square behind it, honoring its members with the respect, the support, and the military equipment necessary to do the job.

I ask God's blessing on them all.

GEORGE S. BROWN
General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

ARMY '75

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, adopted the raising of "ten companies of riflemen" as the nucleus of a National Army, to fight alongside militia units from the colonies. That hastily authorized Army, with a combined strength of 790, has evolved to become one of the most effective single fighting forces ever created and just as it did in 1775, today's Army stands ready in our national defense; *vigilant, vital* and *volunteer.*

Operational Forces

The key to a quality Army is combat readiness, a capability which the Army continues to improve. Today, 13 active Army divisions are combat ready and operational in Europe, Korea, and the United States.

United States Army, Europe (USAREUR), is committed to its responsibilities in the defense of Western Europe. USAREUR demonstrates its reinforcing capabilities annually with designated units based in the United States deploying to Germany and combining with pre-positioned elements and equipment. These exercises are entitled Reforger and the last such operation, held in October 1974, airlifted almost 12,000 troops from the U.S. to Europe where they combined with 50,000 other American, Canadian and West German troops in testing and updating the latest techniques in rapid strategic deployment.

The Army plans to increase its combat capability in Europe with the deployment of a 3,800-man brigade from the 2d Armored Division, Ft. Hood, Texas. This is part of the Army's overall objective of increasing combat forces while reducing adminstrative support forces.

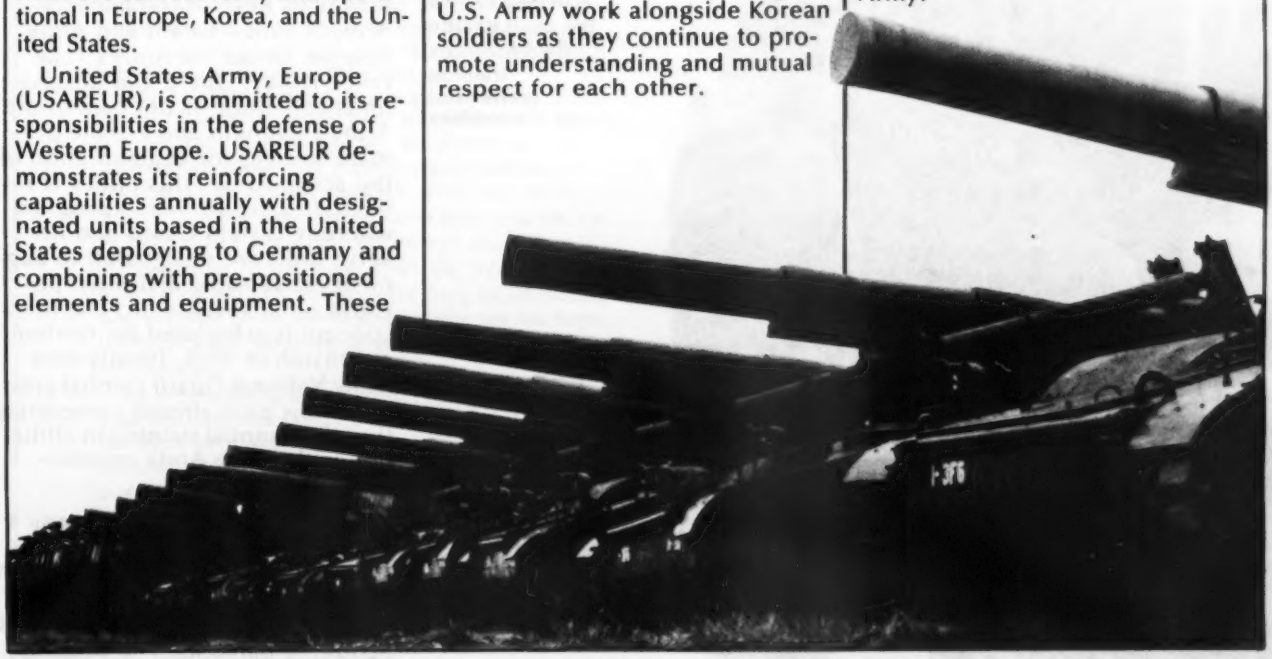
For 25 years the United States has contributed to Korean stability. Today, members of the Eighth U.S. Army work alongside Korean soldiers as they continue to promote understanding and mutual respect for each other.

New Developments

One of the Army's most significant decisions is the recently announced plan to add three new divisions without increasing its authorized end strength of 785,000.

As the first step in achieving this goal, the Army activated three brigades in October 1974 at Ft. Polk, Louisiana; Ft. Stewart, Georgia; and Ft. Ord, California. The three new divisions will use these units as a nucleus.

To achieve this increase in combat unit capability, a number of headquarters were eliminated both overseas and in the United States. The headquarters affected were U.S. Army, Pacific; U.S. Army Engineer Command, Europe; Theater Support Command, Europe; U.S. Army Intelligence Command; U.S. Army Southern Command; and U.S. Army Alaska. The elimination of these headquarters and the concomitant reorganization of the Department of the Army staff provided about 10,000 additional combat spaces throughout the Army.



A soldier prepares a Hawk missile launcher prior to firing near Heidenheim, Germany.

A company of young soldiers marching toward the main parade field for basic training graduation exercises

Command and Control

Management and supervision of the Army's individual training effort is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). TRADOC focuses on the Army's most valuable asset—the individual soldier. His training is the key to survivability and success on the battlefield.

Once the individual is trained, he must than become a member of a team since the key to combat readiness is well-trained units. This responsibility falls to headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM). Unit training and operational readiness of all deployable combat and supporting forces of the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve stationed in the continental United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are included in FORSCOM's charge.

Guard and Reserve

Total readiness of the Army is directly related to the effectiveness of its Reserve components—Army National Guard and Army Reserve. Under the Army's Total Force Policy, Guard and Reserve units constitute 45 per cent of the Army's strength and are the primary sources for augmentation of the active Army. This policy is reflected in the affiliation program whereby certain Guard and Reserve units are designated to augment active Army divisions. Because of its success in 1974, this concept is scheduled for further expansion in 1975. Twenty-four Army National Guard combat arms battalions have already completed their first annual training in affiliation with active Army counterparts.

In the initial program, Hawaii's 29th Infantry Brigade was designated to augment the Army's 25th Infantry Division and now serves as the 3d Brigade of that division at Schofield Barracks. The brigade

has a full complement of combat and support assets, and was the first Army National Guard brigade to receive Huey Cobra aircraft.

Army Reserve aviation units have also received new types of aircraft and maintenance facilities. In addition, the number of authorized full-time aviation maintenance technicians has increased.

Members of the Guard and Reserve not only play greater roles in national defense, they also participate in community affairs. National Guard troops often conduct community service activities and aid in disaster relief. The Army Reserve is also active in community action projects ranging from operating health clinics in disadvantaged areas to assisting local environmental groups in the conservation of natural resources.

Personnel Management

1974 saw the completion of the transition of the Army to a totally volunteer force.

For those who can qualify in today's Army, there are a variety of enlistment options available, ranging from specific training to a choice of specific units or geographical location. Those with special skills may qualify for enlistment bonuses and the Stripes for Skills program provides for accelerated promotions to individuals who are proficient in civilian-acquired skills.

Noncommissioned officers may enhance their professional status by participating in the noncommissioned officer education system. Courses aim at developing those who have demonstrated a high degree of leadership, management, and technical skills. The Sergeants Major Academy offers broad professional development for command sergeants major with the potential for positions of major responsibility.

More than 24,000 women serve in today's Army with plans calling for a total of about 50,000 by 1979. More than 90 per cent of enlisted skill areas are open to women.

Professionalism

The Army's commitment to improve professionalism is reflected in the development of two systems and the creation of an agency for this purpose. The Officer's Personnel Management System, which recognizes specialty development, combat and technical emphasis, continues to provide the Army with a new framework for officer personnel development.

Armed Forces Day 1975 brings us to the eve of the Army's bicentennial. The primary reason for the success of the Army during this important period in history has been the quality and enthusiasm of its men and women. Thanks to you, this tradition continues today as we increase our combat and mission effectiveness.

The vitality of the Army is as important to the Nation's security today as it was 200 years ago. To maintain this vital force, the Army is developing additional combat units without increasing its overall strength. The total force policy is being emphasized more than ever before to insure maximum performance of all components. At the same time, the Army is concerned with its people—for only by attracting and keeping good, motivated people can we hope to reach a full measure of effectiveness and efficiency.

As we commemorate Armed Forces Day, 1975, I am confident the Army will continue to maintain the high state of readiness necessary for our national security. Well-trained and well-equipped troops will reflect an Army that is fully capable and credible—one that will continue to earn the respect and support of the people it protects. You are part of a great tradition—congratulations!

Bo Calloway

Howard H. Callaway
Secretary of the Army

Army scouts from Troop A, 15th Cavalry, go through tactical training at Ft. Stewart, Georgia while the troop's tankers conduct tank gunnery qualifications.

The new Enlisted Personnel Management System was approved on August 23, 1974. It will provide a more comprehensive system of career development for all soldiers by integrating, to a higher degree, the subsystems of training, evaluation, classification and promotion.

The Administration Center at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, has been given the responsibility for the development of leadership/management doctrine. The Center provides the Army with a central agency for promulgating personnel management doctrine to complement the Logistics Center at Ft. Lee, Virginia, and the Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Modernization

To keep pace with advances in science and technology, the Army is continuing to support an imaginative research and development program. Currently under development are five major weapons systems that will enhance the combat capability of the Army of the 1980s and 1990s. These are a new main battle tank with far greater protection and mobility than the current tank; a mechanized infantry combat vehicle that will be a companion assault vehicle to the new tank, one in which the infantryman can fight from within; an advanced attack helicopter capable of day-night, all-weather operations; a new troop carrying helicopter called the UTTAS that will carry a full squad; and an advanced air defense missile system called SAM-D that will provide the defensive umbrella under which the Army of the future will be able to operate.

Looking still farther to the future, Army research seeks to explore the unknown frontiers of science and technology. It does not intend that the U.S. soldier of the future will ever be confronted by an enemy battlefield technological surprise for which he has no counter or counter-capability. Therefore, the Army is spending approximately $1.9 billion to ensure that tomorrow's Army will be, technologically, the world's most combat effective ground force.

Health Care

Health care for the soldier and his family is still a vital benefit to today's Army. With the elimination of some overseas Army components last year, the Health Services Command mission was extended to include the areas of Alaska, Panama, Hawaii, and the Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Medical Department is conducting a program of new hospital construction and older facility renovation. In addition to first-rate physical plants, the use of the most modern supplies and equipment will allow improvement in all services.

New training programs are proving highly attractive to young physicians and are improving the

utilization of professional personnel. A few of the more progressive and significant are: the family practice residency; the greater utilization of non-physician Medical Department officers; the expansion of the Nurse Clinician Program to permit Army nurses increased responsibility for patient care; and the continuation of the already proven Physicians Assistant Program.

Energy Conservation

The Army set a high standard in the field of energy conservation in 1973 and intensive management of Army energy resources continued throughout 1974.

Initially, the conservation emphasis was on petroleum fuels, but a similar program followed for purchased electrical energy, natural gas, propane, coal and purchased steam. The conservation goal for the latter was first set at a seven per cent reduction based on Fiscal Year 1974 projected requirements and was later changed to 15 per cent by the Secretary of Defense. Through the dedicated efforts of Army personnel, all conservation goals were met.

Future Goals

The Army has set three major goals to guide its effort in shaping its future.

First and foremost, the Army is concerned with upgrading the quality of its soldiers. Having proven that it can meet its numerical requirements, the Army now will continue to tighten quality standards to improve the caliber of its men and women.

Secondly, the Army will seek to obtain the maximum benefit from all resources. By conserving its resources and eradicating waste, the Army will do more with what it has.

Thirdly, the Army will develop a more flexible force, one capable of performing a wider variety of roles, thus providing a higher degree of responsiveness and professionalism to the defense of the Nation.

Conclusion

The Army celebrates its Bicentennial next month. Since its beginning on June 14, 1775, the Army has served the Nation in war and peace. In 1775 it struggled for certain high ideals. Today it preserves those ideals by continually improving its ability to protect our American way of life.

If the members of the Continental Congress could see the Army today, what would they find?

- An Army of young men and women who serve because they want to serve—and who, along with other Americans, see in the Army a worthwhile environment for service.
- A ready Army—capable, strong, responsive.
- A stable Army, in which professionalism and motivation reach new levels, and in which people achieve a full sense of belonging.
- An Army that draws a great measure of its strength from the people and units that make up its Reserve components—the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve—the true Total Force.
- An Army that represents the ideals of equality and justice that our Nation stands for.
- An Army that recognizes its responsibility to protect and conserve our country's resources and economic strength—especially those resources provided for the Army's use.
- In short, an Army of which every person in this Nation can be proud—volunteer, vital and ever vigilant.

This Armed Forces Day is a special one for the Army. In a few days we will celebrate our 200th anniversary. Since 1775, Americans in uniform have been defenders of freedom and guardians of peace. They gave freely of themselves to shape and defend the United States. We owe our continuing heritage to them.

To protect this heritage and to preserve it for the future, today's Army must be proud and professional. The country needs a ready and dedicated force in which people experience a full sense of belonging. We have that kind of Army today. With dedication and readiness as our watchwords, we will continue to provide the Nation a strong, capable, responsive Army—both Active and Reserve components.

This is a great time to be in the Army. Our anniversary is not just the culmination of two centuries of history—it also marks the beginning of a new era of service to the country. It is an era of opportunity, a time to renew our spirit, a time to increase our strength, a time to serve. A capable Army is essential to the continued life of our Nation, just as it was essential to its birth 200 years ago.

Fred C. Weyand

FRED C. WEYAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

An F-14 Tomcat comes in for a landing aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise.

NAVY '75

1975 marks the U.S. Navy's 200th birthday. To insure its ability to carry out assigned tasks, the Navy emphasizes fleet readiness, offensive capability, flexibility of deployment, and personnel stability through quality retention and recruiting.

Seapower and World Affairs

In a fast changing world, the Navy continues to play an increasingly important role in supporting foreign policy goals. Seapower deters aggression at all levels and includes the following capabilities:

- Ability to display a credible U.S. military commitment in almost any area of the world.
- Ability to protect the sealanes for transport of critical imports.
- Ability through its Polaris/Poseidon/Trident program to provide an invulnerable strategic deterrent.
- Ability to provide a military presence without an automatic commitment of force.

All Volunteer Force

In the all volunteer environment, recruiting and retention are an "all hands" job. Navy recruiters are doing an excellent job in filling quotas with the most highly qualified men and women. At the same time, the Navy is continuously taking steps to broaden and improve the career opportunities of its personnel. Navy rating ("A" and "B" schools), on-the-job training, and off duty education and Navy Campus for Achievement are only a few of the many education and training opportunities available to Navy personnel.

In addition, the Navy is reviewing its Enlisted Occupational Classification System to better identify needed and critical skills. Plans for implementation of these proposals are already underway.

Other Navy involvement in the personnel and retention areas include:

- Equal Opportunity— The Navy's equal opportunity program has made significant strides and includes increased personnel awareness of such important elements as personal worth and racial dignity. The Navy's basic goal remains the same: One Navy—a family that places no artificial barriers of race, color, sex or religion in the way. The Navy is moving steadily toward

The guided missile escort ship USS Richard L. Page at anchor off Athens, Greece. A Navy recruiter interviews a potential recruit.

making this a reality by implementing changes within the framework of disciplined, orderly and ethical naval operations.

• Family Separation— The Navy is unique among the Services because of the sea/shore rotation requirements and the need to maintain required numbers of personnel assigned to the fleets. The Navy is attempting to provide more personnel stability than in the past. One of the concepts which should assist in this regard, is "homesteading," or a concentrated effort made to assign personnel who so desire, to repetitive tours in the same geographic area. This effort, coupled with the Overseas Family Residence and Homeporting programs, offers an excellent opportunity for decreasing the time a Navy family is separated.

• Habitability— Ships under construction are being equipped with newer, fire-retardant materials; food service and food preparation facilities are being modernized; sanitary spaces now include countertop lavatories, mirrors with adequate lighting, private showers and shower drying areas; and berthing spaces will be separated from dressing spaces and lounges. This will allow more privacy and comfort in individual living areas.

Shipbuilding and Modernization

Although its total number of ships has been temporarily reduced, the Navy is gaining a greater multi-purpose capability with each new unit. Ongoing programs continued in 1975 were

Two hundred years ago, the seed of democracy was beginning to take root in the 13 American colonies. The intense spirit of freedom and independence of the American people caused that seed of democracy to grow, and the unquestioned strength of the American Armed Forces protected that democracy.

Our great democracy has reached the pinnacle of world leadership. This leadership is not unchallenged. Today the American Armed Forces must stand ready to meet any challenge.

Our Nation recognizes the many contributions of its Armed Services on May 17. In peacetime and in war, Americans have gone to sea, and crossed continents and breached the limits of the skies to insure the protection of our democracy.

Today, American men and women—quietly and competently—maintain that same watch throughout the world.

The American people sincerely admire and appreciate the commitment and resolve of those who serve in our Armed Forces. As Secretary of the Navy, I am honored to serve with these fine Americans in uniform.

the Spruance class destroyers; the Knox class ocean escorts; the Los Angeles class nuclear-powered attack submarines and the three nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, the Nimitz (CVAN-68), the Eisenhower (CVAN-69) and the Vinson (CVN-70).

The 1975 shipbuilding program also initiated two new programs centered around high speed ships, the Missile Patrol Hydrofoil (PHM) and the Patrol Frigate (PF). Additionally, research is continuing with the advanced concept surface-effect ship, which is capable of speeds in excess of 80 knots.

Other technical developments include the first operational deployment of F-14 aircraft squadrons aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise and an increased offensive capability in missiles such as Harpoon and extended Harpoon.

The Trident program is moving forward both with base construction at Bangor, Washington, and the letting of the first Trident submarine contract. In addition to the F-14 aircraft deployment, the Navy introduced the new S-3A anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft, designed to replace the older S-2 Tracker.

Other Programs

- Women in the Navy— The number of enlisted women in the Navy will double by the end of Fiscal Year 1975 and the number of women officers in the line and staff corps will increase by 20 per cent by the end of 1975. The Navy is continuing to emphasize the importance of women in all facets of Navy life.

- Realignment of Shore Installations— As the Navy has experienced fleet reductions on the order of 42 per cent for ships and 21 per cent for aircraft, corresponding action has been taken to reduce and scale the supporting shore establishment.

- Minesweeping and Salvage of the Suez Canal— In a special operation termed "Nimbus Star," the Navy helped sweep the Suez Canal of mines in an international effort to open the canal. Salvage operations are also nearing completion.

The Navy approaches its 200th birthday on October 13, 1975, with its eye to the future. Shipbuilding programs are underway to modernize and increase the size of the Navy, and other innovative programs are in motion to support the All Volunteer Force concept. The Navy of the future will be one of quality and experience.

The Navy's organization is sound and its morale is high. In keeping with the proud tradition of the past, the Navy will continue to fulfill its responsibilities in behalf of national defense. It will do so with those same traits which have always identified it as the world's finest and most effective naval force.

J. William Middendorf

J. William Middendorf II
Secretary of the Navy

As Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day 1975, the Navy is also celebrating two centuries of dedicated and loyal service to the United States. In those 200 years, the Navy helped to win freedom for our Nation, to protect it through a series of world conflicts and to preserve that freedom for ourselves and our allies by maintaining a base of strength in times of peace.

The Navy, like its sister Services, has not grown old despite its advanced years. It has stayed young, changing with the times and retaining that vitality which enables it to meet the demands imposed by the profound responsibilities for our national defense. The Navy must continue to adapt, to accept the progress of technology and to use it to ensure the success of our mission.

I am confident that the Navy will remain a strong element in the total defense of the United States, and I am particularly proud of the men and women who perform this vital role. No matter how tough the task, how severe the threat, and how sparse the resources, the United States Navy will always be ready to carry out its mission upon which the security of the American people depends.

J. L. Holloway III

J. L. HOLLOWAY III
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Naval Operations

AIR FORCE '75

Two centuries ago, a war was fought to secure individual liberty and representative government for the Colonists—a heritage which has since had a profound influence throughout the world.

The ideals of the American people remain constant as the Nation approaches its bicentennial anniversary. Only the mode of protecting these precious freedoms has changed.

Because of this change, America's youngest Military Service, the U.S. Air Force, has increasingly become one of its most vital defense forces.

The Air Force cannot trace its beginnings to our musket-carrying and seagoing forefathers as can the other Military Services. But, in a world where air superiority is often a deciding factor in a conflict, the Air Force joins the other Services in supporting U.S. national objectives.

Since it was first established under the National Security Act of 1947, the Air Force has been charged with primary responsibility for the country's *offensive* and *defensive* air operations. It has continued to successfully accomplish this mission despite a rapidly changing international situation and, more recently, severe cutbacks in resources.

As America works for world peace through negotiations, the Air Force's role is to deter aggression and help insure our Nation's security.

Addressing the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, Secretary of the Air Force John L. McLucas recently emphasized, "Strategic deterrence remains of paramount importance as we seek genuine detente and security. We must always be prepared to maintain essential equivalence in strategic forces so that potential adversaries do not have significant military advantage over us. Such strength increases the likelihood of success across the range of important foreign policy initiatives now underway. We must remain prepared so that we can negotiate from strength, help maintain international stability, and defend vital national interests."

More than ever, commitment to this mission requires dedicated people, innovative management, and effective use of new technology.

Technology is an ever-growing factor in determining military capability. The Air Force's emphasis on research and development helps to insure that this Nation maintains its proper military balance and minimizes the possibility of technological surprise.

In respect to this, Gen. David C. Jones, Air Force Chief of Staff, has explained, "With the Soviet momentum in strategic programs and the long leadtimes required to develop modern weapons, it is imperative that we hedge against future risks with strategic research and development initiatives of our own. Our current efforts are intended to provide just such a hedge."

In an Air Force destined to be "better, not bigger" during the next decade, modernization is the watchword in creating the highly effective and efficient force necessary for the 1980s.

Force Modernization

Research, development, and evaluation of new technology is being carried out with cost effectiveness uppermost in mind. Both in making existing operational systems more reliable and in introducing more advanced aircraft and weapon systems, the Air Force concentrates on obtaining the best defense dollar value.

Prototyping is one way in which the Air Force tests new technology for a relatively small investment before making a commitment to full-scale production. The government sets performance and cost goals and industry decides the best means of achieving them. If the ideas prove successful, they can be incorporated into operational aircraft.

The lightweight fighter program was a recent example of this "try-before-buy" approach. Two versions of the aircraft underwent competitive flight testing, prior to selection of one of the prototypes for the Air Force's new air combat fighter development program.

Development efforts like this are designed to insure that America's strength continues to be sufficient and variable enough to dissuade an enemy across the spectrum of conflict from all-out nuclear war through limited wars

to cold war. This requires a mixture of forces geared for many contingencies.

Deterring nuclear attack remains a primary concern, and the heart of the nuclear deterrent is the strategic offensive force that stands ready to retaliate.

The Nation's strategic force is comprised of a combination of manned bombers, land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) known as Triad. The Air Force is responsible for the manned bombers and ICBMs. The effectiveness of each of these weapon systems is enhanced by the existence of the others.

Developed to modernize the strategic bomber fleet, the top priority program this year has been the B-1 intercontinental strategic bomber, designed to serve as a viable deterrent into the 21st century.

Compared to the B-52 Stratofortess, the present mainstay of the strategic bomber force, the B-1 will be able to penetrate enemy defenses at lower altitude and higher speed with a smaller radar cross-section and a bigger payload. It can also take off faster from much shorter runways.

The B-1 is currently being flight tested. If production go-ahead is given late next year, the first production B-1s could enter the Air Force inventory in early 1979, with initial operational capability occurring in early 1981.

The Air Force is upgrading its land-based ICBM force to keep pace with continued Soviet advances, and is experimenting with missiles launched from aircraft. Presently, the Nation's ICBM force consists of Titan and Minuteman missiles. Earlier versions of the Minuteman are being replaced by the Minuteman III, the only model capable of carrying multiple warheads. Minuteman silos are also being hardened to increase survivability.

Strategic airlift forces contribute significantly to overall deterrent capability. The United States cannot protect its national interests, support its allies, or meet its responsibilities in helping safeguard international peace without the ability to deploy forces abroad in minimum time.

A development program for a long-range, multipurpose advanced cargo/tanker aircraft has been initiated with an eye toward increasing strategic airlift and aerial refueling capabilities in the future.

Strategic deterrence is not the only Air Force job. Another important responsibility involves deterring lesser conflicts and being prepared for limited war. The Air Force fulfills its conventional warfare responsibilities by providing air superiority, close air support, aerial reconnaissance, interdiction, and tactical air mobility.

Just as modernization is imperative to strategic airpower effectiveness, it is equally vital to the success of these fundamental tactical air missions.

The Air Force accepted the first F-15 Eagle into its operational inventory last November. This air superiority fighter is designed to outmaneuver and outfight any aircraft that our potential adversaries may have operational in the foreseeable future.

The Air Force has in production another aircraft designed exclusively for the close air support mission. The A-10 is a simple, well armored, rugged aircraft, capable of short-field takeoff and landing. It is scheduled to enter the Tactical Air Command inventory in November 1976.

The airborne warning and control system (AWACS) is undergoing comprehensive testing prior to entering the Air Force operational inventory, also scheduled for late 1976. This system includes improved surveillance radar and associated data processing and communications equipment installed in a modified Boeing 707 aircraft. It will provide both airborne surveillance and command, control, and communications functions for both tactical and air defense missions.

In addition, the development of new tactical air weapons and delivery systems such as the Maverick missile, laser-guided bombs and other advanced munitions, modern aerial cannon, terrain-avoidance navigation, all-weather attack systems, and advanced radar-jamming equipment are dramatically improving the capability of existing aircraft.

Aerial resupply is another important responsibility of the Air Force. To insure tactical airlift ability to meet future needs, the Air Force has initiated a prototype development program for an advanced medium STOL (short takeoff and landing) transport plane which could ultimately lead to the production of a versatile transport capable of operating from short runways.

The Air Force has continued its development programs in the areas of remotely piloted vehicles and drones which could eventually be used for both

This day has been set aside for the Nation to recognize formally the dedicated service, unselfish sacrifices, and outstanding achievements of its men and women in uniform. As we approach our bicentennial anniversary, all of us dedicated to safeguarding the American way of life can take pride in our heritage.

Armed Forces Day should also be an inspiration for the future. In the search for world peace, we know that further progress greatly depends upon strength. Having come this far, we must allow neither thankfulness nor hope to blind us to that reality. America must maintain effective Armed Forces in the future, and those of us in the Department of Defense must renew our determination to do the best job we possibly can.

It is a great privilege for me to join in saluting our Armed Forces, and I am especially proud of the men and women in the Air Force.

John L. McLucas

John L. McLucas
Secretary of the Air Force

The Air Force B-1 strategic bomber rolls out at the Rockwell International Corporation's Palmdale, California, facility. The B-1 will be the follow-on bomber to the B-52 Stratofortress.

reconnaissance and weapons delivery, and the use of satellites and space-based systems for surveillance, early warning, and navigational aid.

Reserve Forces

As the size of the active force is reduced, the Air Force is relying more heavily on the responsiveness and readiness of the Air Reserve Force and its integration into the current Air Force mission. Because of this, the modernization program has been additionally extended to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

The reserve components have some of the most modern weapon systems in the Air Force inventory, including the RF-4, F-4, F-106, A-7, C-130, and KC-135 aircraft. They are being assigned high-priority, early response missions previously given only to active duty forces. A large number of the Nation's air defense interceptors are manned by Air National Guard pilots.

Volunteer

Since 1968, the Air Force has seen a decline in active duty military manpower, from approximately 900,000 men and women to about 615,000 by the end of Fiscal Year '75—the smallest force since 1950. These reductions require that greater emphasis be placed on quality rather than quantity.

Current efforts are aimed at attracting quality people in sufficient numbers and insuring that time spent in the Air Force not only contributes to mission accomplishment but personal development as well.

More than 97 per cent of Air Force enlisted men and women today have a high school diploma, or equivalent, and a substantial number have college credits or degrees. Approximately 25 per cent of Air Force officers have either a Masters or Ph.D. degree.

Greater numbers of women and minorities are being recruited to insure that Air Force personnel are

Armed Forces Day '75 officially begins the military's observance of its own heritage as well as the 200 years of our Nation. The United States Air Force has been operating as a separate Service for a little more than a quarter of a century, but its beginnings go back much farther—to the earliest days of aviation. As long as American airmen have served they have been dedicated to supporting our Country's ideals as prescribed in the Constitution. I am proud of past contributions made by the Air Force, along with the other Military Departments, in the service of our Nation.

As we face the difficult challenge of accomplishing our tasks with fewer resources, I am confident that the U.S. Air Force will remain the best trained, best equipped, and most dedicated Air Force in the world.

David C. Jones

DAVID C. JONES,
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

more representative of our society. The Air Force is also giving increased emphasis to recruiting health professionals.

There are approximately 24,000 women now serving in the Air Force. This figure is expected to double by 1978. About 3½ per cent of the force today are women. This is due to increase to 8 per cent by 1978. Women are currently eligible for any job, except those combat-related duties which are prohibited by law.

Minority participation is receiving close attention. The percentages of minorities in the enlisted ranks is about on par with the country at large, and increased emphasis is being placed on recruiting minorities for the officer element.

A college degree is required for commissioning in the Air Force. The Air Force goal for minority officers is to approximate the national percentage of minority college graduates. Today, about 3 per cent of the officers are minority members, and this is expected to rise to about 6 per cent by 1980.

People Programs

The Air Force has always placed great importance on people as its most important asset. In the final analysis, it is the individual who gets the job done.

Emphasis is being placed on sustaining the force, including pay and entitlements, promotions, housing, education, and training. These efforts are designed to insure that the Air Force remains an attractive place in which to live, work, and learn.

Recent policy changes have created a more stable promotion system and a greater predictability in career patterns and progression.

Education and training programs continue to take high priority. The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) is one example. Through agreement with a large number of colleges throughout the country, enlisted personnel can combine Air Force technical training or work experience with selected off-duty college courses to eventually earn a career education certificate. This document certifies educational achievement similar to a two-year occupationally-oriented associate degree.

Under its social actions program, the Air Force guarantees equal opportunity and treatment for all its people, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Race relations education, which is conducted for the most part within the framework of a seminar, brings different ethnic groups together to actively promote harmony and a better understanding of people's differences and similarities through an exchange of ideas.

Humanitarian Efforts

The Air Force's concern for people is not limited to its own personnel, but extends to the Nation's civilian population and the people of the world.

The Air Force has a significant capability to assist civil authorities in times of disaster, and it has conducted searches for downed aircraft and answered calls on countless occasions during floods, snowstorms, forest fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, and other national disasters.

It has provided assistance to many foreign countries. Over 18 million pounds of grain and other foodstuffs were flown into the drought-stricken African nations of Chad, Mali, and Mauritania. Flood relief was provided for Pakistan and the Republic of the Philippines. More than 562 tons of food, medical supplies, and equipment were flown into Honduras to help disaster victims of Hurricane Fifi.

Community Involvement

The Air Force is not only interested in working with people during times of disaster. It actively supports the interaction of its people with the civilian community to provide more opportunities for community service on a day-to-day basis. Efforts have been undertaken at many installations to expand equal opportunity education by making the education program used by the Air Force available to the local community.

Youth employment and summer encampment opportunities have been established for minority and disadvantaged youths at bases throughout the United States. Attempts also have been made to reach out and involve handicapped persons.

Just as the Air Force diligently supports an active human relations program, it also pursues programs in the areas of ecology and natural resource preservation as well as energy conservation.

As more women train into technical fields, this Air Force flightline scene (above) is becoming a familiar one. An Air Force navigator discusses his responsibilities with minority children as part of a community service program.

The Air Force has instituted several environmental protection programs and is working with the Department of Interior to conduct research on a specific program to get more electrical power and less pollution from coal.

It is cooperating with Federal and State agencies in natural resource conservation and wildlife management, and is developing wildlife management plans at every Air Force installation in the United States.

The Air Force has applied stringent energy conservation measures wherever energy usage could be limited without seriously affecting its mission. These actions range from lowering thermostat settings in government buildings to cutting aircraft fuel consumption.

Summary

Today's Air Force is working hard to achieve more efficient use and conservation of resources both in current operations and within the modernization program. It is committed to aggressive resource management, the continued success of the all volunteer force, maintaining adequate forces in being, and providing necessary options for future deterrence. The challenge is to maintain a modern and ready Air Force, prepared to go when called upon, with people qualified and trained to do their jobs effectively. The Air Force will continue to meet this challenge as a vigilant, vital, and volunteer force.

MARINE CORPS '75

Marine Corps readiness in war and peace has always been vital to the global policies of the United States. Such readiness has always depended on the Corps' strength and the individual quality of its men and women. Thus, the goal of stabilizing worldwide commitments and manpower strength, while upgrading personal standards for recruits and Marines already in uniform, was the keystone of Corps planning and priorities in 1974.

Faced with a manpower shortfall of 7,000 men at the end of the Fiscal Year 1974 recruiting campaign, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., proclaimed that the time had arrived to stabilize manpower objectives because "...changes in strength or grade structure may create adverse long term effect."

To meet mission requirements, Corps planners invested about 65 per cent of the manpower available in 1974 in combat-ready operating units such as the Fleet Marine Force, security forces, and Marine detachments aboard naval vessels.

This meant significant reductions in some of the Corps' headquarters commands, including Headquarters Marine Corps, and a major realignment of artillery assets within Marine divisions. The extra manpower squeezed from these reorganizational moves was used to strengthen combat-ready units. One of the immediate results saw the Corps attain a 1–to–9.52 officer-enlisted ratio. The Armed Forces norm is 1 officer to every 6.75 enlisteds.

ARTILLERY FORCES SHIFT

A restructuring of division artillery forces saw three battalions disbanded and their men and equipment transferred to other units.

An overall increase in the support capabilities and mobility of division artillery regiments resulted with the 155mm self-propelled howitzers from each of the disbanded battalions used to establish additional heavy-support batteries in two long-established Field Artillery Groups. The groups—1st Field Artillery Group, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, at Twentynine Palms, California, and 2d Field Artillery Group, Fleet

Marine Force, Atlantic, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina,—were tasked to provide heavy artillery support for division riflemen.

Marines from the disbanded units were absorbed into the remaining battalions within each of the Corps' three artillery regiments stateside and abroad to form new batteries. The batteries are armed with towed 155mm howitzers that are helicopter-transportable, thus adding mobility for deployment ashore and afloat.

Meanwhile, the Corps' commitment to provide Marines for a variety of other duties was not diluted. Marines continued their vital role of protecting U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, as well as meeting a growing list of special assignments covered by the catch-all phrase "... and such duties as the President may direct..." in the National Security Act of 1947.

Though the commandant noted that to "maintain all three division-wing teams at a prudent level of readiness with a full range of combat capabilities requires a minimum strength of 205,000 Marines," he pointed out that because of current fiscal realities, he had requested and received authorization for 196,398 Marines for Fiscal Year 1975.

RECRUITERS LAUNCH BIG DRIVE

In mid-1974, Marine recruiters began an all-out campaign to find the quality manpower needed to bring the Corps up to and sustain its authorized strength.

Recruiters had just finished their recruiting year in June 1973 with a shortfall largely because of a Congressional mandate that 55 per cent of all Armed Forces recruits be high school graduates. Though this criterion cut deeply into the recruiters' efforts during most of 1974, they finished the recruiting year with a June input of 6,751 men and women to achieve 121 per cent of their objective, of which 76.4 per cent were high school graduates.

June's tally launched a four-month streak for the recruiters in which they topped their monthly quotas through September.

By the end of December 1974, the Corps' recruiters had attained over 99 per cent of their goal for the first six months of Fiscal Year 1975.

CORPS STANDARDS TIGHTENED

With recruiters under strict quality control orders, the Corps continues to upgrade the military, personal and educational standards of those men and women already in uniform.

Physical fitness requirements remain stringent and weigh heavily in consideration for promotion and assignment; and demanding personal appearance requirements ensure that the traditional high grooming standards of Marines are met. Education requirements for first term Marines seeking reenlistment are closely enforced, and the Corps' human relations program became a part of its long-proven leadership instruction.

A pair of Marines, top photo, undergoing jungle warfare training use teamwork to get their gear ready to move out. Elements of a Marine amphibious unit go down the nets from a Navy transport ship into a landing craft.

A Marine Corps 175mm gun gets some firing time as the artillerymen brush up on their skills. U.S. Marines, right and below, participated in Operation Kangaroo I with Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom during testing of joint naval tactics.

Under a pilot concept developed by the Corps in 1974, individual Marines will eventually receive human relations instruction, including race relations, as a part of their leadership training. Officers and staff noncommissioned officers, who will conduct this training at unit levels, will be formally trained in the far-ranging responsibilities of leadership with a heavy emphasis placed on human relations.

Such leadership training is designed not only to produce a higher caliber of Marine, but also to prepare the individual to more fully comprehend and accept the responsibilities of good citizenship.

SERVING AROUND THE WORLD

Human relations training is vital to Marines deployed overseas who must, to be goodwill ambassadors for the U.S., have an understanding and appreciation of the differences between the "American way" and the customs and traditions of other peoples.

Such deployments, some with minimum notice, to overseas posts are routine in a Marine's life whether he is in the ground or aviation arm.

One example occurred in mid-summer 1974, when a planned deployment of Marine AV-8A Harrier, vertical or short takeoff and landing (VSTOL) attack jets left the East Coast bound for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Japan to support the Okinawa-based 3d Marine Division. Then, in late summer the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina-based 2d Marine Division using for the first time Harriers from the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, North Carolina, deployed an air-ground force to the Mediterranean. This force, identified as a Marine amphibious unit (MAU)—a battalion landing team supported by its own aviation, artillery and armored units—is maintained year-round with the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

The MAU sails throughout the Mediterranean conducting amphibious exercises and putting carefully-developed amphibious doctrine into practice while testing new methods to perfect the Corps' goal of unsurpassed excellence in mobility and flexibility.

EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM CYPRUS

Need for this uncompromising preparation to meet many different contingencies was demonstrated during the Cyprus fighting in mid-summer, 1974. Helicopters from the MAU sped into action to evacuate Americans caught in the crossfire of Cyprus fighting.

The diversity of these afloat forces was demonstrated earlier when Marines of the 32d MAU aboard the USS Iwo Jima (later relieved by elements of the 34th MAU aboard the USS Inchon) were committed to the joint United States, United Kingdom, French and Egyptian operation to clear the Suez Canal.

Another afloat ready Marine force is maintained year-round aboard ships of the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific, while a third is periodically aboard ship or conducting island training in the Caribbean.

One operation in the Pacific was the largest peacetime maneuver ever staged in Australia. Approximately 2,000 Marines of the 33d MAU joined elements of the U.S. Navy and Army, as well as forces from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom in Exercise Kangaroo I. More than 120 aircraft, 38 ships and 15,000 men were involved in the land, sea and air maneuvers.

Whether abroad or in the U.S., operational training served to ready Marines for deployment anywhere, anytime. And no matter where the training was conducted, one non-combat related responsibility was constantly stressed: protection of the environment where the training was conducted.

THE THREE "E'S" IN '74

The Marine Corps has a long record of protecting **ecology,** improving the **environment** and conserving **energy.** In 1974, a significant number of Marine posts and stations achieved recognition from the Corps, the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense for programs in wildlife and land management, ecology and environmental protection, and energy conservation. Additionally, many Marine bases opened their facilities to civilians for recreational use other than for fishing and hunting, which has always been permitted.

READY TO GO

On Armed Forces Day 1975, the Corps finds itself in excellent overall shape with its combat-ready units primed to meet any contingency, anywhere, at any time the President may direct.

And Corps leaders, from the commandant on down, are quick to recognize and give credit where it is most due: the individual Marine!

The history of our Country is greatly enriched by the accomplishments of the men and women who have served it in uniform.

As we look back with pride on the eve of our first 200 years as a Nation, we can see that no group of Americans has contributed more to their Country than those patriots who have defended it in times of crisis. All Americans have enjoyed freedom, but you have stood ready to fight for it—you have protected it. It is because of your devotion, your courage, and your sacrifices that we can enjoy the blessings of our free Nation.

As we pause on this Armed Forces Day, let each of us rededicate ourselves as American fighting men and women to our Country and to its people so that we may continue to carry forward the traditions of our predecessors in the defense of the freedom we cherish.

All Americans are thankful for your service and I join them in saluting you on this Armed Forces Day.

R. E. Cushman, Jr.

R. E. CUSHMAN, JR.
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant

COAST GUARD '75

The Nation's smallest military Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, adds an exciting chapter of accomplishments each year in search and rescue, fighting crimes on the high seas, prevention and clean up of pollution, and protection of fisheries. The Coast Guard functions as a part of the Department of Transportation in peacetime, and as an arm of the U.S. Navy in time of war.

Because of the connotation of the name "Coast Guard", many people expect that this Service deals only with America's coastline. However, Coast Guardsmen are found around the world, including the geographical areas of the Artic and Antarctic.

The numerous missions of the Coast Guard are carried out by 37,000 military and 6,000 civilian personnel. From scattered bases, they operate a fleet of 250 ships, 160 aircraft, and more than 2,000 small craft. Also, they maintain more than 45,000 aids to navigation. Others are busy insuring the safety of the merchant marine, recreational boats, and the Nation's bridges.

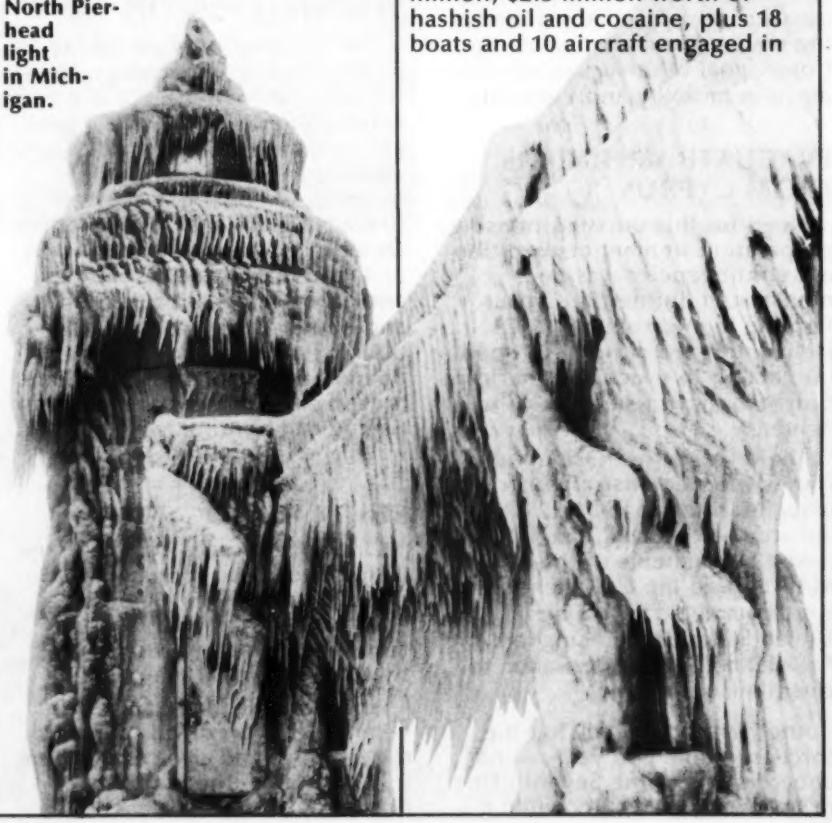
OPERATIONS

The Coast Guard's multimission capabilities make it the Service truly cost effective to the taxpayer. Last year the Coast Guard responded to nearly 20,000 calls for help. About 4,200 deaths were prevented and more than 125,000 persons were otherwise assisted by Coast Guard personnel. Property valued at almost $300 million was saved through Service efforts.

Three "strike teams" respond to about 60 major pollution incidents each year. The teams are ready to travel within two hours. They provide equipment, communications, advice, and assistance for the control of pollution by petroleum or hazardous substances.

At the request of the Government of Chile last year, the Coast Guard sent men and equipment to help combat a major oil spill that resulted from the grounding of a super tanker in the Strait of Magellan. The tanker spilled nearly a quarter of its 64 million gallons of crude oil, resulting in extensive water and beach pollution. The Coast Guard helped the Chileans bring the incident under control.

Alert to suspicious movements of yachts and concerned over reports of hijackings, the Service stepped up efforts to eliminate the primary cause—drug traffic. Last year, working with the Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Customs, the Coast Guard won a "well done" salute from President Gerald R. Ford for helping to curb drug traffic in Caribbean waters. "Operation Buccaneer" seized or destroyed more than 700,000 pounds of marijuana with street sale value of approxiamtely $203 million, $2.3 million worth of hashish oil and cocaine, plus 18 boats and 10 aircraft engaged in



The St. Joseph North Pierhead light in Michigan.

A Coast Guard boat assists other Coast Guard units fighting an oil fire at the mouth Mississippi River resulting from the collision of a tanker and a freighter.

smuggling. Ninety-eight suspects were arrested.

Last year to protect the Nation's fisheries, the Coast Guard, working with the National Marine Fisheries Service, seized 12 foreign vessels which were fishing illegally in U.S. waters. One million dollars in penalties were collected.

More than 11,000 Coast Guard Reservists augment regular forces in peak workload periods, adding a new dimension to the Reserve program and contributing substantially to alleviate peak workload problems. During Fiscal Year 1974, Reservists contributed about 2.8 million man hours. Additionally, some 45,000 citizen volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary help the Service in its boating safety efforts.

SAFETY

Although its operations make the headlines, the Coast Guard also performs less dramatic but equally vital tasks intended to prevent accidents that cause tragic loss of life and property. To help promote maritime safety, the Coast Guard certifies U.S. Merchant Marine personnel in the use of lifeboats and lifesaving equipment, operational safety of tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes such as chemicals, liquified natural gas (LNG) and liquified petroleum gas (LPG), damage control, radar and other disciplines to ensure that U.S. merchant ships continue to be manned by the best qualified mariners in the world.

Due to its concern for the safety of an estimated 8 million recreational boats, the Coast Guard is involved in boat construction standards. The Service issues warnings and publicizes recalls when major flaws are discovered. Underscoring its concern for recreational and commercial boating safety, the Coast Guard has completed a network of 181 very high frequency (VHF-FM) sites that provide distress radio coverage of vessels 20 miles at sea and on inland waterways. It is estimated that 95 per cent of distress calls are from boats within that range. Transmitters of as low as one watt power may be used aboard boats.

Worldwide statistics show that 64 per cent of ship collisions occur within the entranceway or confines of harbors. The Coast Guard has developed vessel traffic systems (VTS), ranging from sophisticated radar control to comparatively simple signal controls, to materially reduce this risk in congested harbors and rivers.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Since World War II, the peacetime missions of the Coast Guard have nearly doubled. Less productive missions are being phased out to keep pace with the ever changing needs of the Nation.

Last year a 34-year-old ocean station program, which provided weather data and navigational aid for transoceanic aircraft, was ended for an annual savings of $17 million.

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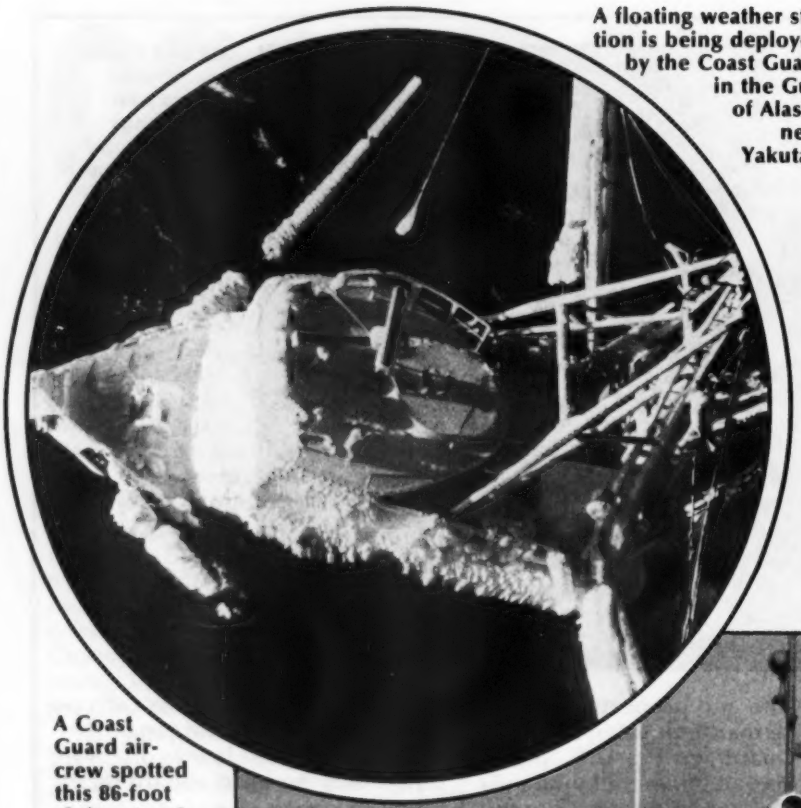
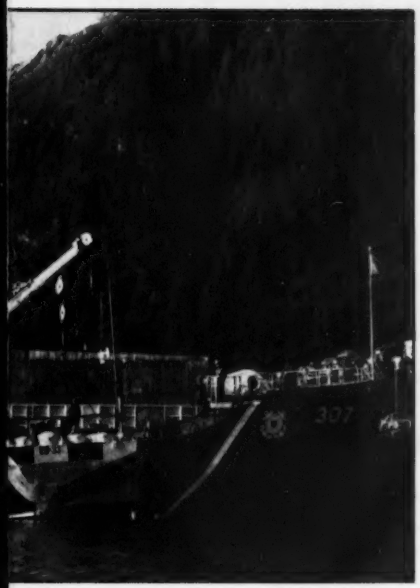


A floating weather station is being deployed by the Coast Guard in the Gulf of Alaska near Yakutat.

A Coast Guard aircrew spotted this 86-foot shrimp trawler, above, aground on the northwest coast of Kodiak Island after being abandoned by her crew during a storm. The new 41-foot utility boat, right, is powered by twin-diesel 275 horsepowered engines and opens up to a full speed of 24 knots. It is being used in New York for search and rescue duties as well as law enforcement.



Deepwater Ports, a new subject for most Americans, promises to become better known and will have an important impact on the Coast Guard. Today, 60 per cent of the world's tankers cannot call at U.S. ports because of the lack of water depth needed for these massive ships. In fact, the United States is the only major oil importing country that does not have deepwater port facilities.

Late last year legislation was passed charging the Department of Transportation and Coast Guard with the development of rules and regulations for licensing, construction and operation of deepwater ports. These rules will ensure that our coastal environment will be protected against accidents, and will result in a reduction of oil spills. This effort will also reduce ship traffic and collisions in already crowded inshore ports.

Contingency plans are underway for increased Coast Guard offshore law enforcement patrols if Congress, or a United Nations' sponsored conference, creates a 200-mile maritime economic zone. The new zone would equal about one-third the size of the Nation.

Coast Guard research and development is active in a great number of areas including airborne ocean surveillance sensor systems to detect and "finger print" oil spills for positive identification of sources, "super lights", distress alert and location devices, and solar-powered buoys.

In addition to its peacetime role with the Department of Transportation, the Coast Guard is always mindful of its wartime role as a member of the Armed Forces. Working in close cooperation with the U.S. Navy, units and personnel of the Service are trained independently and in joint operations to meet Navy fleet performance standards. Particular emphasis has been placed on refresher training for the crews of high-endurance cutters which have been outfitted with Navy-procured sonar sensor and anti-submarine warfare weapons systems.

Armed Forces Day 1975 finds the Coast Guard prepared to give vital service to the Nation on the domestic scene and in international matters. This small Service with a big mission lives up to its motto "Semper Paratus" or Always Ready.

COMMANDER'S DIGEST

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Spring is an appropriate time for us to pause to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces. For this is a season of renewal of hope that the missions of the Military Services will continue the preservation of the peace for all mankind.

The United States Coast Guard, smallest of the five Armed Forces, is especially mindful of its dual responsibility. The volunteer Coast Guardsmen must be militarily prepared to help maintain the peace while simultaneously trained to support a variety of peaceful maritime missions.

Members of the Armed Forces, whether they serve on land, the oceans or in the air, are well aware they are recipients of the trust of the American people to defend their heritage of freedom.

During this year of preparation for our Nation's bicentennial observance, our Servicemen and women will feel a renewal of respect for their vital role in serving both country and mankind.

O. W. SILER
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant

AMERICAN FORCES . . .

VIGILANT

VITAL

VOLUNTEER

MAY 17